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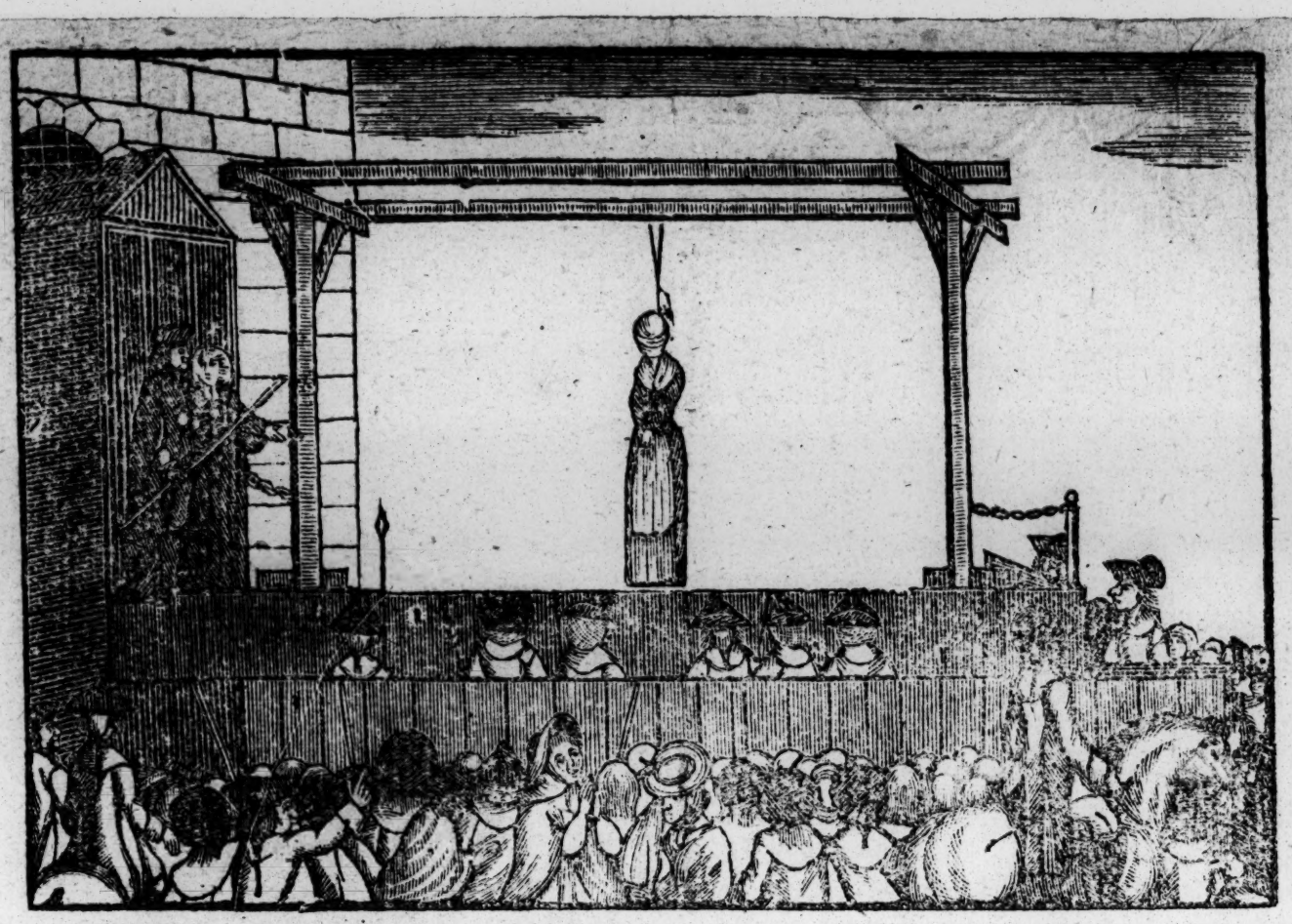

W.N.M. BIBL. SOC. HARVARD

The laſt Dying Speech and Confeſſion, Birth, Parentage, and Behaviour, of *Mary Benſon*, alias *Maria Thereſa Phipoe*,

Who was Executed this Morning facing the Debtor's Door, Newgate,

And the Extraordinary Speech ſhe made while ſhe was ſtanding under the Gallows.

SHE was tried on Friday, at the Old Bailey, for the wilful murder of Mrs. Mary Cox, on the 25th of October laſt, in Garden-ſtreet, St. George's in the Eaſt, of which he was found guilty.

During the whole of her trial ſhe behaved in a bold and very unbecoming manner; ſhe aſked the witneſſes ſeveral queſtions with the greateſt effrontery; and even had the audacity to tell Baron Perryn, after he had paſſed ſentence of death upon her, which ſolemnity had not the leaſt effect on her hardened heart, "that if Judge Groſe preſided ſhe would have been convicted!"

She was born of very reſpectable parents in the town of Amiens, in France, in the year 1750, and being the only child, at their death ſhe became poſſeſſed of all their property, which amounted to about one thouſand pounds, which ſhe brought to England, and placed in the bank, in the year 1780.

Soon after her arrival in England ſhe became acquainted a Mr. Courtois, a Frenchman, of conſiderable property, with whom ſhe cohabited for ſeveral years, but at length diſagreeing, they ſeparated: ſhe then went to live at Brompton, where ſhe continued ſome time. About three years ago ſhe ſent a letter to Mr. Courtois, deſiring his attendance at her houſe, ſaying, ſhe had ſome money matters to ſettle with him; he accordingly went, and was introduced to her by the ſervant; he had no ſooner entered the room than the ſervant and her miſtreſs forced him into an arm-chair, and tied him to it with ropes; the miſtreſs then demanded a bond for 2000l. of him, which he refuſed to give, on which ſhe attempted to cut his throat with a carving-knife, which he prevented; and, in order to ſave his life, he gave her the bond; he was then ſuffered to depart. Next day he had her taken up, and ſhe was fully committed for trial; ſhe was found guilty, but left for the opinion of the Judges, who acquitted her; ſhe was then detained for the aſſault, for which ſhe was impriſoned 12 months in Newgate. When ſhe was releaſed ſhe went to live in Garden-ſtreet, where ſhe perpetrated the horrid murder of which ſhe is convicted.

She was a ſtout robuſt woman, of a drak complexion. She was attended by a Romiſh Clergyman.

While under ſentence of death ſhe did not ſeem the leaſt affected.

Juſt before ſhe was turned off ſhe made the following EXTRAORDINARY DECLARATION to the ſpectators:

"*I am now about to ſuffer death for a crime which* "*I had not the leaſt intention of committing; we* "*were both in fault; and I declare, in the preſence* "*of Almighty God, that what I did was in defence* "*of myſelf, as ſhe gave the firſt offence, and what* "*any one elſe would have done; but I warn you all* "*not to give way to paſſion, it has been the deſtruc-* "*tion of Mrs. Cox, and will plunge me headlong* "*into eternity!*"